

(WASHINGTON)-- Congressman Allen West (R-FL) released this statement today in honor of the fallen and their families on this Memorial Day:

"Memorial Day is set aside every year to remember the ultimate sacrifice given by our Men and Women in uniform. Precious lives lost, so that we may live free. One day a year is hardly fitting for such a gift to all of us, which is why Americans must always remember the price of freedom and never expect that it is free.

As a 22- year Army Veteran with several friends and relatives still serving in the Armed Forces, I have made it my primary mission in the United States Congress to act in the best interest of our troops, so that those who died did not die in vain. This includes providing for the families of the fallen and providing for those injured even once the physical battle of war is over. As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee, I will continue to fight to make sure our Military has all of the resources it needs, up until the last warrior returns home to their family safe.

The United States of America possesses the greatest military force the world has ever known. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsman volunteer to protect and defend this country and all of its citizens, and do so with honor, integrity and excellence. When our Men and Women in uniform take the oath to serve their country, every single one of them is prepared to die for his or her country, and yet their courage and selfless commitment to their beloved Nation, surpass any fear they might have. This is true bravery and loyalty. These are the greatest men and women of each generation.

As Americans enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and pay tribute to the men and women who have literally laid down their lives for us, I hope and pray each and every family member of the fallen find peace in knowing their country stands stronger because of their sacrifice, and they will forever be an American Hero. My wife Angela and I, and our daughters Aubrey and Austen, will be reflecting on this somber day with sorrow for those lost, as well as an understanding that we live in the greatest country this world has ever known, not by luck, but because of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform."

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